



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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Date: May 11, 2007
For Immediate Release

P R E S S R E L E A S E

New Bedford Awarded \$1.2 Million in Port Security Funding

New Bedford, Massachusetts- The United States Department of Homeland Security recently awarded the Port of New Bedford more than \$918,000 in grant funding for critical security enhancements. The Governor's Seaport Council will supply a 25% match, escalating funds for security upgrades to more than \$1.2 million. New Bedford shares some of the winnings with the Port of Fall River. Funds will be used to best equip the port of New Bedford in the post 9/11 environment against threats of terrorism.

"This grant funding enhances our ability to be diligent, implement robust security measures and best meet today's security challenges. We appreciate the support of the Seaport Council and our legislative delegates to provide the matching funds that enabled New Bedford to realize this grant award. The Mayor's Office, the Harbor Development Commission, the New Bedford Police Department, Governor Deval Patrick, our congressional delegation and local delegation are all working as a team to bring New Bedford tax payer's dollars back to be utilized for city priorities," said Mayor Scott W. Lang.

This port security grant will support upgrades including the installation of a sophisticated network of cameras, interoperable communication systems, under water surveillance equipment and fully equipped harbor patrol boats. The funding will also be used to provide the New Bedford Police Department Dive team with essential items such as survival suits, ballistic vests and a van for the storage and transport of dive gear.

In the Tier IV category, New Bedford received the second largest award in the nation, second only to the U.S. Virgin Islands. Harbor Development Commission Director Kristin Decas said, "This grant award demonstrates that the federal government recognizes New Bedford as a significant port with critical port security needs. Effective port security measures enable us to best meet the demands of our number one ranked fishing fleet as well as allow us to best market our port for new economic development opportunities."

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